

SECRET

Summary Request for Renewal
Division Project Clearance Sheet

1. Action: Request for Renewal, FY 1957

a. Project Cryptonym

OBTUSE

b. Division

SE

c. Branch

Yugoslavia/Albania

2. Division Concurrences:

☐ ☐
CSE/Y-A

20 July 1958
Date

☐ ☐
SE/PPP

20 July 56
Date

☐ ☐
SE/B&F

23 July 56
Date

☐ ☐
SE/CAL

26 July 56
Date

☐ ☐
C/SE

July 26, 1956
Date

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET

SECRET

Project: OBTUSE

1. Approvals

Original Approval (as part of BGFIEND)	22 June 1949
Original Approval (as separate project)	16 July 1954

2. Funds Used

Prior to FY 1955 (separate breakdown not available)

FY 1955

(C]

FY 1956

C]

3. Objectives and Proposal

To keep alive the spirit of passive resistance and hope for eventual liberation, to encourage defection and to promote friction between Albania and the Soviet orbit through the distribution of leaflets, other printed matter and small quantities of selected consumer goods delivered by the mails and by air drop.

4. Accomplishments and Effectiveness

- a. Nine overflights were flown over Albania in 1955 during which 25,150,000 leaflets and 9,500 packages of consumer articles were dropped. Flight cancellations due to runway repairs in Greece, the Bulganin-Khrushchev visit to Yugoslavia and poor weather caused a reduction in the number of flights scheduled. About 40 adult refugees entered Greece from Albania during 1955. Almost all of these refugees called the leaflets an important factor in keeping up the morale of anti-Communists and, in the case of one 14-member family, one of our leaflets was the deciding factor in encouraging the family to escape. However, there were no high-level defections during the year.
- b. A limited mail campaign was also conducted to supplement the air-drop delivery of leaflets and propaganda. Leaflets or letters were mailed from Paris, Rome, Istanbul, Cairo, Berlin, Belgrade and New York to various second-level Communist officials in Albania. Because of our lack of knowledge of the effectiveness of Albanian censorship controls and our lack of sources in Albania, we do not know if these letters reached the addressees, nor have we been able otherwise to evaluate the effectiveness of the mail campaign.

5. Plans

- a. At least one overflight or windrift mission per month is planned with an estimated delivery of 26,300,000 leaflets. Besides covering timely issues, some leaflets will be prepared aiming at increasing disaffection and defections among specific elements of the population.

SECRET

SECRET

Because of the rather difficult position of the Albanian regime in regard to the Soviet/Satellite rapprochement with Yugoslavia, we believe the coming year will offer unusual opportunities for creating and exploiting friction between Albania and the Soviet Orbit.

- b. Experiments conducted in dispersion of leaflets resulted in the decision to reduce the size of the leaflets to make collection more difficult for the Albanian security forces.
- c. Interrogation of escapees indicated that few of them could recall more than one theme of the six or so covered in our news leaflets. Therefore, the field has decided that during the coming year it will devote considerably more of the leaflets to a single major theme only.
- d. Since the National Committee for a Free Albania (NCFA) has been dissolved, leaflets will no longer be attributed to that organization. They will be attributed to a notional "Committee" or will not be given any attribution at all.
- e. A limited mail campaign on the scale of 1955 will be continued.

SECRET

SECRET

PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA		PROJECT CRYPTONYM		
		OBTUSE		
		FISCAL PERIOD COVERED		
*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION		1 July 1956 THRU 30 JUNE 1957		
RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION SE		CASE OFFICER []		
A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS				
Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits. Include everyone paid from project.				
TYPE	NUMBER		ESTIMATED COMPENSATION	
	U. S. PERSONNEL	FOREIGN NATIONAL	BASE SALARY	ALL OTHER TOTAL
STAFF EMPLOYEES				
STAFF AGENTS				
CAREER AGENTS				
CONTRACT AGENTS				
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS				
DETAILED PERSONNEL				
FIELD AGENTS		3	(Carried on Project OBTEST)	
MILITARY				
ALL OTHER				
TOTAL A.				
B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT				
Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each.				
COMMO	CHEMICAL	QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES	OTHER SUPPLIES	
\$	\$	\$	[]	
MEDICAL	ORDNANCE	SPECIAL DEVICES	OTHER EQUIPMENT	
\$	\$	\$	\$	
TOTAL B.			[]	
C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES				
Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc.				
Misc. Operational Expense []				
TOTAL C.			[]	
D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS				
If funds are to be turned over to individuals or groups in large lump sums to be expended by the individuals or groups at their discretion to accomplish an agreed-upon objective, explain the type of financial accounts, factual verification or statements, if any, other than a receipt for the lump sum, which will be obtained.				
TOTAL D.				
TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D)			\$ []	

SECRET

E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

FORM REQUIRED

☐

U. S. DOLLARS

☐

FOREIGN (SPECIFY)

☐

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(Within security limitations, list any other facts or circumstances which will enable Special Support Staff to lend adequate logistical support to this project. Indicate specificationally the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)

SECRET